

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02839 222259Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9665

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2839

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, FAO, UNCTAD, IN

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON COIR INTERNATIONAL

REF: (A) ROME 642, (B) GENEVA 1847

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES INDIAN PROPOSAL FOR COIR INTERNATIONAL IS CONSISTENT WITH US POLICY TOWARD COMMODITY PROBLEMS AND THAT A POSITIVE US RESPONSE WOULD HAVE A WORTHWHILE IMPACT ON THE BROADER CONTEXT OF US-INDIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. GOI OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR COIR INTERNATIONAL PROPOSAL, JOINT SECRETARY IYENGAR IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES, HAS EMPHASIZED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF THAT VIRTUALLY EXCLUSIVE FOCUS OF HIS PROPOSAL IS MARKET DEVELOPMENT WITH LITTLE IF ANY PRICE STABILIZATION ASPECT. SUPPORT FOR THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY IN A SPECIFIC COMMODITY FORUM WOULD UNDERCUT LDC ARGUMENTS THAT UNCTAD COMMON FUND REQUIRES "SECOND WINDOW" TO FINANCE OTHER MEASURES ACROSS THE BOARD. EMBASSY ALSO NOTES THAT FROM ITS INCEPTION,
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PROPOSAL HAS CALLED FOR PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES-- IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER PRODUCER EXCLUSIVITY IN INDIAN INITIATIVES ON IRON ORE EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION AND JUTE INTERNATIONAL.

3. AS ROME CORRECTLY OBSERVES IN REFTTEL, COIR--LIKE JUTE-- IS A PRODUCT OF A SMALL NUMBER OF EXPORTING COUNTRIES. US SUPPORT FOR MARKET-ORIENTED ACTION IN THIS FIELD WOULD THEREFORE

HAVE A CLEARLY TARGETTED BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON INDIA, SRI LANKA AND,
TO A LESSER EXTENT, THE PHILIPPINES.

4. GIVEN THE ROLE OF BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS AND INCLUSION OF HARD FIBERS IN UNCTAD CORE
LIST, WE BELIEVE UST'S POSITION SHOULD NOT BE DETERMINED BY ITS
LIMITED COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN COIR IMPORTS, BUT RATHER BY
DESIRE TO SEIZE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE FAVORABLE IMPACT IN
COMMODITY NEGOTIATION CONTEXT
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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